

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending in the application, with 1, 9, 13, and 19 being the independent claims. New claims 13-20 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Unless otherwise indicated, the claim amendments are for purposes of clarity and not to overcome any rejection in the Office Action.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Application regards as the invention. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention and are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mei (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,237). Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11, and 12 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brauch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,466). Applicant traverses these rejections because each of the cited references fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention.

For example, the cited references fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a method or system including groups of individually controllable elements producing respective portions of a patterned beam, wherein each focusing element of an array is arranged to direct one of the respective portions of the patterned beam from one of the groups, as recited in claims 1 and 9.

If a future Office Action rejects claims 1 and 9, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Official Action specifically point out in the cited reference a method or system including groups of individually controllable elements producing respective portions of a patterned beam, wherein each focusing element of an array is arranged to direct one of the respective portions of the patterned beam from one of the groups.

It is respectfully pointed out that anticipation can only be established by a single prior art reference that discloses each and every element of the claimed invention. RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Systems, Inc., 730 F.2d 1440 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Therefore, since each of the cited references fails to recite each and every element of Applicant's invention as required in claims 1 and 9, claims 1 and 9 are not anticipated by the cited references and are therefore allowable.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and claims 10-12 depend from claim 9. Therefore, claim 2-8 and 10-12 are allowable at least for the reasons claims 1 and 9 are allowable, and for the specific features recited therein.

The cited references also fail to disclose, teach, or suggest an apparatus or method including an array of focusing elements, wherein each of the focusing elements is optically associated with a separate group of individually controllable elements. Thus, new claims 13 and 19, and claims 14-18 and 20 which depend therefrom, are also allowable over the cited references.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for allowance of subject matter recited in dependent claims 4-6 and 10. Applicant, however, chooses not to amend claims 4-6 and 10 at this time.

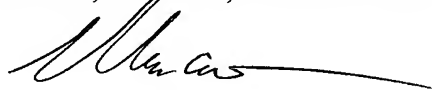
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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